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A/C.1/51/L.52
13 November 1996

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Fifty-first session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 72 (c)

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.15

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 9, 15 and 16 of draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.15, the General Assembly would:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures, 1/ which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 50/71 B of 12 December 1995;

(b) Express its conviction that the democratic process offers a valuable means to build confidence, promote development and prevent conflicts and welcome with satisfaction the decision taken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to hold a subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa";

(c) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

(d) Also request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on implementation of the resolution.

B. Relationship of the requests to the proposed programme of work

2. The above requests are associated with programme 7, Disarmament, of major programme I, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, of the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. 2/ The programme of activities within subprogramme 4, Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowships, training and advisory services, of programme 7, falling under subsection 2C.4, Disarmament, of section 2, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 3/ provides for support to the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. Implementation of the requests contained in operative paragraphs 15 and 16 of the draft resolution with respect to the provision of assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and submission of a report to the General Assembly are related to the programme of activities in the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 under subsection 2C.4. They would be carried out under subprogramme 4 of programme 7 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as revised, to the extent possible from within resources provided under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. In that regard, attention is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/57/Add.1), in which it is proposed to reduce substantive servicing of the meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee from four to two during the current biennium.

4. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/287), the work of the Standing Advisory Committee intensified and expanded significantly in late 1995 and during 1996. Concern over continued tensions and conflict in the subregion, greatly influenced the discussions of the Committee over that period. As such, the heads of State and Government of the member States of the Committee set out a course of action on subregional security cooperation and outlined the following specific measures:

(a) The creation, promotion and support of good governance and participatory democracy;

(b) The organization, under United Nations auspices, of seminars to promote a sustainable culture of peace and democratic responsibility within the armed forces, the paramilitary forces (gendarmerie) and the police forces of States members of the Standing Advisory Committee;

(c) The adoption and implementation of subregional confidence-building measures, including in particular the signature and effective observance of the Non-Aggression Pact among Central African States;

(d) The implementation, with the assistance of the United Nations and the international community as a whole, of a disarmament programme designed to deal with the problem of the uncontrolled proliferation of weapons;

(e) The establishment, under United Nations auspices, of a subregional early-warning mechanism to monitor developments in Central Africa with a view to preventing potential crises or tensions from degenerating into armed conflicts;

(f) The designation, within the armed forces and the paramilitary and police forces of States members of the Committee, of specialized units for possible deployment with United Nations and/or Organization of African Unity (OAU) peace missions;

(g) The convening, on a regular basis, of meetings of heads of State and Government, within the framework of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, to examine peace and related security issues in the subregion.

5. As indicated in paragraph 3 above, the two regular annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee, which are financed from the United Nations regular budget and form part of its activities, have been reduced to one per year, in view of the financial crisis the United Nations is encountering. The Standing Advisory Committee, cognizant of the financial and other material resources required to fully implement the programme of work enumerated above, has conveyed its gratitude to those donors that have already contributed or plan to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, established by the Secretary-General in March 1996.

6. In connection with the holding of a subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa", referred to in paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, anticipated requirements are expected to be met by the Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General to meet the financial requirements (other than those funded under the regular budget of the United Nations, i.e., the two regular annual meetings, which have been reduced to one per year) for full implementation of the programme of work of the Committee. The Secretary-General would accordingly invite voluntary financial contributions from States Members of the United Nations, governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals to finance the proposed subregional conference.

D. Modifications required in the programme of work for 1996-1997

7. The requests contained in the draft resolution are associated with subprogramme 4, Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowships, training and advisory services, of programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, and fall under section 2, Political affairs of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. Accordingly, modifications relate to those indicated in paragraphs 3 and 6 above.

E. Additional requirements at full costs

8. The requirements for the servicing of a subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 are estimated at $171,800 and would provide for the following:

		United States dollars
(a)	Conference-servicing costs	
(i)	Rental of premises	6 000
(ii)	Rental of office equipment	1 500
(iii)	Interpretation	10 000
(iv)	Distribution	9 000
	Subtotal	26 500
(b)	Non-conference-servicing costs	
(i)	General temporary assistance	2 000
(ii)	Travel and daily subsistence allowance of participants	93 500
(iii)	Travel and daily subsistence allowance of staff	21 500
(iv)	General operating expenses and supplies	8 500
	Subtotal	125 500
(c)	Programme support costs (13 per cent)	19 800
	Grand total	171 800

F. Potential for absorption

9. The programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, proposed for revision by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/50/57/Add.1), would provide for substantive servicing of one regular annual meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee. In view of the reduced level of resources under the regular budget, it is therefore anticipated that the additional requirements estimated at $171,800 for the servicing of the subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 could be met with resources contributed to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. Total contributions to date to the Trust Fund, since its establishment in March 1996, are $602,932. Expenditures of $209,000 from the Fund in 1996

were utilized to fund the Peace Operations Training Seminar held at Yaounde, from 9 to 17 September. Other expenditures anticipated from the Fund in 1996, relate to missions of consultation and political missions undertaken by members of the Committee. In addition, the programme of work envisaged for 1997 foresees several meetings which are expected to be decided by the Committee in February 1997. States members of the Committee are conscious of the fact that full implementation of the programme of work is dependent on the availability of resources received from voluntary contributions. Requirements for servicing of the subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 are expected to be set aside from the balance available in the Trust Fund. Hence, additional requirements are not expected to arise under the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 to finance the activity.

G. Indication of additional requirements

10. Accordingly, should the General Assembly approve draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.15, no additional requirements would arise under subsection 2C.4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Notes

1/ A/51/287.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), vol I.

3/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

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Agenda item 71 (j)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND OF VEHICLES FOR THEIR DELIVERY IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee

Note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.3

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.3, the General Assembly would:

(a) Take note of the decision of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, following appropriate consultations, to hold the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee in New York from 7 to 18 April 1997;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee.

2. The request contained in operative paragraph 2 relates to major programme 1, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised. 1/ The programme is covered under section 2, Political affairs, and is associated with subprogramme 1, Deliberation and negotiation, of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. 2/

3. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.3, it is the understanding of the Secretary-General that Secretariat assistance and substantive support services would be required for its implementation.

4. In addition, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no modifications would be required in the activities under section 2, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 as the activities to be undertaken under the draft resolution fall under programme 7, Disarmament, subprogramme 1, Deliberation and negotiation, activity 1, International cooperation, (a) Depositary services.

5. With respect to the assistance and services to be rendered to the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee, related requirements for conference-servicing and other costs are envisaged. The first session of the Preparatory Committee is scheduled to take place in New York from 7 to 18 April 1997. A decision on the dates and venues for holding further meetings of the Preparatory Committee and on the Conference itself is expected to be made by the Parties at the first session of the Preparatory Committee, together with a number of other decisions on organizational arrangements, including the provision of summary records. Conference-servicing costs of the first session, including provision of summary records, are estimated at $535,700, to which would be applied programme support at the rate of 13 per cent. Non-conference-servicing costs expected to be incurred are being determined.

6. Provision has not been made under section 2.C.4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 to undertake the activities, in connection with the holding of the first session of the Preparatory Committee in April 1997. It should be noted that the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee are conferences of States parties to the Treaty. As was the case in the past, conferences on multilateral disarmament treaties, for example, the recent 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD Convention), included in their rules of procedure provisions concerning the arrangements for meeting the costs of the conference, including the sessions of their preparatory committees. Under those arrangements, no additional cost was borne by the regular budget of the Organization.

7. Accordingly, the Secretary-General considers that his mandate under draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.3 to provide the necessary assistance and services as may be required for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its Preparatory Committee has no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations and that the associated costs would be met by States parties in accordance with the financial arrangements to be made by the conference of the Treaty.

8. Furthermore, all activities related to international conventions or treaties that under their respective legal instruments are to be financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations may only be undertaken when

sufficient resources to cover the activities in question have been received from the States parties in advance. It should be noted that the estimated conference-servicing costs of the first session of the Preparatory Committee are being provided for indicative purposes only and that the parties to the Treaty would bear the actual costs of the Preparatory Committee meeting, which may be somewhat lower or higher than the estimated costs.

9. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.3, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

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ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Israel: amendment to draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.28/Rev.2

Operative paragraph 4

For the existing text substitute

Notes the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

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QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Draft resolution proposed by the Chairman

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/80 of 15 December 1994, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit information provided by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties on their consultative meetings and on their activities as well as developments in relation to Antarctica,

Taking into account the debates on the question of Antarctica held since its thirty-eighth session,

Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community, including for international peace and security, the global and regional environment, its effect on global and regional climate conditions, and scientific research,

Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Recognizing that the Antarctic Treaty,[1] which provides, inter alia, for the demilitarization of the continent, the prohibition of nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear wastes, the freedom of scientific research and the free

[1] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

exchange of scientific information, is in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Recognizing also the designation, in the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, of Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science and the provisions contained in the Protocol regarding the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems, including for the environmental assessment, in the planning and conduct of all activities in Antarctica,

Welcoming the continuing cooperation among countries undertaking scientific research activities in Antarctica, which may help to minimize human impacts on the Antarctic environment,

Welcoming also the increasing awareness of an interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Reaffirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica[2] and the role accorded by the Secretary-General to the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing his report and also of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, which took place at Seoul on 8 and 9 May 1995 and at Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 29 April to 10 May 1996, respectively;

2. Recalls the statement under chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[3] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, that States carrying out research activities in Antarctica should, as provided for in article III of the Antarctic Treaty, continue to:

(a) Ensure that data and information resulting from such research are freely available to the international community;

(b) Enhance access of the international scientific community and specialized agencies of the United Nations to such data and information, including the encouragement of periodic seminars and symposia;

3. Welcomes the invitations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to attend Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings

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[2] A/51/390.

[3] See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex II, chap. 17, para. 17.105.

in order to assist such meetings in their substantive work, and urges the parties to continue to do so for future consultative meetings;

4. Welcomes also the practice whereby the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties regularly provide the Secretary-General with information on their consultative meetings and on their activities in Antarctica, and encourages the Parties to continue to provide the Secretary-General and other interested States information on developments in relation to Antarctica, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report which shall consist of that information to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".